

PROCEEDINGS  
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*PHYSIGNATHUS COCINCINUS* AND ITS SUBSPECIES.

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The Museum of Comparative Zoölogy has received recently from Koyobashi, the well-known Japanese collector, a lizard which is very interesting. A study of this specimen in connection with the relevant literature leads to the following conclusions.

*Physignathus cocincinus* was briefly described by Cuvier in the *Regne Animal*, Edition 2, Vol. 2, 1829, p. 41. It is the type species of the genus. The name was emended by Guérin (Icon. R. A. Rept., 1829-44, pl. ix, fig. 2) to *cochinchinensis* and Boulenger and Günther have followed him in this. Boulenger (Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus., I, 1885, p. 399) quotes Cuvier's specific name as *concinus*, which is incorrect. In this he followed Gray, who in speaking of the lizard as *Lophura concinna* made the same error. Neither apparently realized that Cuvier was trying to latinize the words Cochin China. The original spelling has to be retained by the laws of modern nomenclature.

In 1861 Günther (Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., p. 188) described *P. mentager* from Siam and three years later figured it in his *Reptiles of British India* (1864, p. 153, pl. xv).

The example which the Museum has recently acquired is from Laokay, Tonkin. It evidently represents an undescribed geographical race rather intermediate in characters between those previously characterized. The races may be diagnosed as follows:

***P. cocincinus cocincinus* Cuvier.**

From Cochin China, probably from the southern region about Saigon. This section of the country was that best known in Cuvier's time.

Lateral teeth eighteen on each side. Six or seven enlarged shields along each side of the throat.

**P. cocincinus mentager** Günther.

From Siam.

Eleven or twelve lateral teeth. Eleven enlarged shields along each side of the throat.

**P. cocincinus caudicinctus** subsp. nov.

*Type*.—Skin of a large adult in alcohol with cleaned skull attached. Coll. Mus. Comp. Zool. No. 8352. From Laokay, Tonkin, Koyobashi, collector.

Closely related to the two preceding forms but differing as follows: lateral or molar-like teeth, eighteen on each side of upper jaw and fourteen on each side of lower. (This rather as in *P. c. cocincinus*.) A series of fourteen enlarged shields along each side of throat parallel with the infralabials. (In this respect tending toward the condition in *P. c. mentager*.)

The new form is thus evidently related to both the others and as their ranges probably meet and as intergrades probably occur in the boundary regions of their ranges, the three forms may best be considered geographic races of the one species.